

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INSE-00 VO-03

SCA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 DHA-02 ORM-01 INRE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 FBIE-00 SY-05 EURE-00

PRS-01 /062 W

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O R 071706Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 926

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

S E C R E T BERN 2781

FRANKFURT FOR INS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CGEN, HU, GH

SUBJECT: ASYLUM REQUEST (DR. JANOS PATAKI)

REF: 2 FAM-228

1. DR. JANOS PATAKI, HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR TO ACCRA, TODAY REQUESTED AT EMBASSY BERN POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES FOR HIMSELF, HIS WIFE, AND THEIR TWO SONS.

2. AMB. PATAKI WAS BORN IN OROSHAZA, HUNGARY ON MARCH 6, 1930. HIS WIFE WAS BORN IN BUDAPEST APRIL 19, 1941. HIS SON GYOZO WAS BORN IN BUDAPEST ON OCT 26, 1960. HIS SON DONATH WAS BORN IN BUDAPEST ON JULY 15, 1966.

3. AMB. PATAKI HAS HUNGARIAN DIP PPT, GOVT. OF GHANA DIP/D CARD, AND HUNGARIAN DRIVER'S LICENSE. HIS WIFE AND SONS HAVE HUNGARIAN DIP PPTS.

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4. GOVT OF SWITZERLAND IS AWARE OF DR. PATAKI'S REQUEST

FOR ASYLUM.

5. AMB. PATAKI STATED THAT HE DECIDED YEAR AGO TO DEFECT BUT WAITED UNTIL NOW TO IMPLEMENT HIS DECISION IN ORDER TO UTILIZE PLANNED HOME LEAVE TRAVEL FROM ACCRA TO BUDAPEST. HE STATED THAT HE INFORMED A MEMBER OF THE U.S. EMBASSY ACCRA'S STAFF OF HIS DECISION SHORTLY BEFORE HE LEFT ACCRA. AMB. PATAKI ARRIVED IN ZURICH ON JULY 3 WITH SWISS VISA PERMITTING 3 DAYS' STAY IN SWITZERLAND (HE STATED THIS IS A NORMAL PROCEDURE FOR A HUNGARIAN DIP RETURNING TO BUDAPEST AND DID NOT AROUSE SUSPICION ON THE PART OF HIS HUNGARIAN COLLEAGUES). AFTER ARRIVING IN SWITZERLAND AMB. PATAKI CONTACTED SWISS ALIEN POLICE (WHO HAS GIVEN DR. PATAKI PERMISSION TO REMAIN IN SWITZERLAND THREE MONTHS) AND A REP OF THE EMBASSY. AMB PATAKI WAS THEN ASKED TO COME TO THE EMBASSY ON JULY 7, 1975 TO DISCUSS HIS APPLICATION FOR ASYLUM WITH A CONSULAR OFFICER. AMB. PATAKI STATED HE HAS \$9,000 WITH HIM WHICH HE SAVED DURING PAST YEAR IN ACCRA. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THIS MONEY WOULD NOT LAST LONG IN SWITZERLAND AND HE REQUESTED A SPEEDY DECISION TO ENABLE HIM TO MAKE FUTURE PLANS. IF HE IS REFUSED ASYLUM IN THE U.S. HE PLANS TO SEEK ASYLUM IN CANADA OR AUSTRALIA AS HIS WIFE AND SONS SPEAK ONLY ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE. THE EMBASSY ALSO REQUESTS A SPEEDY DECISION IN THIS CASE.

6. AMB. PATAKI AND FAMILY ARE STAYING AT A HOTEL IN BERN.

7. AMB PATAKI STATED HE IS DEFECTING BECAUSE HE HAS DECIDED THAT HE CAN NO LONGER LIVE UNDER COMMUNISM. HE SAID THAT HE HAD DOUBTS REGARDING THE DOCTRINES OF COMMUNISM FOR HIS EARLIEST SCHOOL DAYS BUT THAT TIME AND EXPERIENCE, BOTH IN HUNGARY AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD, MADE HIS DOUBTS "MORE CONSCIOUS." HE SAID THAT AS LONG AS POSSIBLE HE WANTED TO STAY IN HUNGARY AND HELP HUNGARY AND ITS PEOPLE BUT HE REALIZED HE COULD NOT STAY IN HUNGARY AS AN APOLITICAL MAN WAITING FOR A CHANGE IN GOVT.

8. THE EMBASSY IS UNAWARE OF ANY CRIMINAL CHARGES CONCERNING
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AMB. PATAKI.

9. AMB. PATAKI STATED HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE HUNGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY SINCE 1950 WHEN HE JOINED WHILE A STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BUDAPEST. HE STATED THAT TO HAVE REFUSED TO JOIN WOULD HAVE RUINED HIS CAREER. PRIOR TO SERVING AS AMB. TO ACCRA HE STATED HE WAS HEAD OF THE DEPT. OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AFFAIRS AT THE MINISTRY OF

FOREIGN AFFAIRS. BEFORE THAT HE STATED HE WAS AMB. TO
ADDIS ABABA.

10. AMB. PATAKI STATED HE WAS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN
BUDAPEST THE EVENING OF JULY 4. PRESUMABLY INQUIRIES WILL
BE MADE SHORTLY RE HIS WHEREABOUTS. IF ASKED BY
PRESS MAY EMBASSY CONFIRM THAT AMB. PARAKI HAS
REQUESTED ASYLUM AND DECISION IS BEING MADE IN
WASHINGTON ON HIS REQUEST?

11. AMB. PARAKI STATED THAT OVER LAST EIGHT MONTHS HE
HAS WRITTEN A BOOK ENTITLED "SURVIVAL OF THE WEST"
WHICH DEALS WITH POLITICS AND WHOSE CENTRAL THEME IS
THAT THE WEST UNDERESTIMATES THE INTENTIONS OF THE
USSR. HE SAID THE BOOK IS INTENDED TO "WAKE UP WESTERNS"
AND IS WRITTEN FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF SOMEONE WHO
UNDERSTANDS COMMUNISM. AMB. PATAKI GRUDGINGLY AGREED TO LOAN
HIS ONLY MANUSCRIPT COPY (IN HUNGARIAN) TO EMBASSY WHICH
WILL MAKE XEROX COPY.
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